



DECEMBER 2011



SPACEPLACE.NASA.GOV

Volcanoes blast fine particles into the air that can be hurt airplane engines. A new kind of satellite will steer pilots away from it. The "Satellite Insight" game at spaceplace.nasa.gov/satellite-insight will tell you more.

SUNDAY
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY

Read a New Book Month. Check out the Storybooks on The Space Place.

4
11

First recorded sighting of the **Aurora Borealis** from New England, 1719. What causes these beautiful Northern Lights?

18
25

Christmas Day. Did Santa ever bring you a Slinky®? If so, you'll understand how NASA plans to make a mast to go solar sailing in space.

5
12

Radio signals first transmitted across the Atlantic, 1901. But how do these signals carry messages?

19

Apollo 17, the last of the Apollo Moon landing missions, returned to Earth, 1972. Did they find water ice on the Moon?

26

Time magazine named **Albert Einstein** "Person of the Century," 1999. Play the Black Hole Rescue game, based on some of his ideas.

6
13
27

No Interruptions Day. A time to reflect and prepare for a new year. Read and listen to Dr. Marc's reflections on some favorite topics.

7
14

Geminids meteor shower at maximum. Meteor showers occur when Earth passes through the path of icy, rocky debris in space left by a comet.

21

Winter Solstice (first day of winter)

28
1
8
15
22
29
2
9
16
23
30
3
10
17
24
31

National Cookie Day. If you were going on a long journey to Mars, would cookies be among the items you would take along?

FIRST QUARTER

FULL MOON

NEW MOON

Month of December: spaceplace.nasa.gov/search/?q=storybook

Dec. 4: spaceplace.nasa.gov/mars-adventure

Dec. 7: spaceplace.nasa.gov/menu/dr-marc

Dec. 11: spaceplace.nasa.gov/podcasts

Dec. 12: spaceplace.nasa.gov/classroom-activities/#phases

Dec. 14: spaceplace.nasa.gov/tails-of-wonder

Dec. 17: spaceplace.nasa.gov/classroom-activities/#formation

Dec. 19: spaceplace.nasa.gov/i-see-ice

Dec. 25: spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/st8/sailmast

Dec. 26: spaceplace.nasa.gov/black-hole-rescue

Dec. 27: spaceplace.nasa.gov/menu/dr-marc

Dec. 31: spaceplace.nasa.gov/comet-nucleus